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Thousands protest Washington state's vaccine mandate, sing national anthem

By Emma Colton

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"I feel for those people who are losing their jobs," Thurston County resident Dena Eagan, who attended the rally with Coyle, told The Olympian. "I'm here to stand with all these other people. It's our bodies, our choice."

"I don't even get the flu shot," another attendee of the rally, Cowlitz County resident Theresa Pringle, told The Olympian. "That's where choice comes in. I'm a very healthy retiree who can choose. Some people who are not as healthy also can choose."

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Rallies against vaccine mandates have been cropping up across the country in recent weeks. Health care workers have protested outside hospitals holding signs such as, "Last Year's Heroes, This Year's Unemployed." A massive rally in New York City was also held last month, when former and current teachers marched against the vaccine mandate and were heard chanting, "F--- Joe Biden."

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